taken adequate alternative steps to prevent such a stupendous loss. I would like to know, if it is correct, whether the responsibility of this lapse is fixed on the officers who were responsible of this lapse and fixed on the officers who were responsible and any action is taken.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Madam, I am the protector of the employees. I must say that no employee was responsible. When the strike was called, we took appropriate steps and all the workers and employees worked properly So the question of taking any action does not arise. I fully appreciate the concern of the hon. Members. We do take preventive steps to see that the SAIL does not go down. As I said earlier, we tried to deliver more material before the strike and after the strike to cover the backlog during the strike period. I can assure the hon. Member that if we see any contractor or any individual is responsible, appropriate action as per law will be taken.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Madam, there has been a general buoyancy in picking up commodities like steel and cement and that is reflected in the hon. Minister's reply. And I am happy that, by and large, there has been a satisfactory pick up in the profits and performance of this unit. What I am asking is: though strikes cannot be avoided, has the hon. Minister taken adequate steps (a) to avoid the strike; (b) to see to it that it is not prolonged beyond a reasonable time and (c) what is most important, to keep buffer stocks in the various stockyards.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Madam, truck strike was not in the steel sector only but it was an overall strike all over the country. And the strategy that was to be taken by the Surface Transport Ministry along with the respective State Governments. As regards what the hon. Member has said. I can say that the Government of India took appropriate action and, not only that, we have seen during the strike that in West Bengal and also in certain parts of Maharashtra, the strike was called off before 14 days and action was taken by the respective State Governments in conjunction with the Surface Transport Minister who was negotiating with the strikers. It was not a like of the steel plant truck operators. And, yes, I agree with the hon. Members that appropriate steps were taken and, as I have said in the original reply, we have taken pre-emptive steps to see to it that the stockards were full of quantity. But if the people do not come, we cannot supply. But in spite of that, the Government Departments, the Army, Defence and all have cooperated and we have been able to supply at least a good quantity.

Extension of CAT for Employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

*224. SHRI MOHAMMED KHALEELUR RAHMAN:†

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan have ever approached the Central Government for extension of jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal to the employees of KVS; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) An autonomous organisation comes under the purview of Central Administrative Tribunal when the Department of Personnel notifies it under Section 14 of Administrative Tribunal Act. The Department of Personnel has expressed that in view of the workload in the various Senches of the Central Administrative Tribunal, they are not in a position to include Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for the time being.

At that time also, it was expressed that it could not take in any more organisations because it was an autonomous organisation. After that, the DOP has not taken in any other organisation.

SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Madam, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any cell or mechanism in KVS for redressal of grievances of the employees in respect of their service matters. If yes, please give the details. If no, please give the reasons.

KUMARI SELJA: Madam, there is a mechanism. They do approach the Commissioner, the Vice-Chairman, the Chairman. Then, of course, they have recourse to the law of the land. They can go far redressal to courts.

उपसभापति : श्री शारदा महन्ती । अब तो इस सवाल में कुछ है नहीं, जवाब दे दिया ।

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Madam, KVS is in the habit of not considering the demands of the employees. So, there is a huge number of cases pending in various High Courts and other courts. I want to know from the Minister how many cases are pending till now.

My second question is—she has stated that they have approached the Personnel Departmen—when and how many times her Ministry has approached the Personnel Department for bringing KVS under CAT's jurisdiction.

KUMARI SELJA: Madam, I have answered the second part of his question already. As regards the first question, if the employees feel the necessity, it is totally up to them. They have a right to take any case to court and many cases are pending in vairous courts and I will give the figures. There are 8 cases pending in the Supreme Court, 1069 in the High Courts and 552 in the lower courts.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : उपसभापति महोदया, मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय जो है, इसकी तो इच्छा है तभी इन्होंने कार्मिक मंत्रालय के विभाग को एप्रोच भी किया और कार्मिक विभाग का यह कहना है कि केन्द्रीय प्रशासनिक न्यायाधिकरण जो है, इनके पास काम ज्यादा है इसलिए इनके काम को बढ़ाया न जाए । जो हमारी पार्लियामेंटरी डेमोक्रेसी है उसका संयुक्त दायित्व है ।

तो मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय इस संबंध में कि केन्द्रीय संगठन के सारे मामले अधिकरण के सामने जायें, इस संबंध केबिनेट को एप्रोच करेगा ?

KUMARI SELJA: Madam, I cannot give any reply to this question.

श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम : उपसभापति जी, सरकार की जैसी राजनैतिक इच्छा है उसके चलते तो यह कहा जा सकता है कि कर्मचारियों की समस्यायें और बढ़ती जा रही हैं और आए दिन इन मुकदमों की संख्या और भी बढ़ जाएगी । तो मेरा सीधा या अनुरोध है कि मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की ओर से क्या सरकार को कोई ऐसा निर्णय लेने के लिए डिस्कशन हुआ है या बातचीत हुई है कि क्या जो प्रशासनिक प्राधिकरण के न्यायपीठ हैं, इनको शीघ्र और सस्ता न्याय दिलाने के लिए कुछ और आगे बढ़ायेंगे और इनको जिला लेवल पर स्थापित कराने के लिए, कोई इस तरह की योजना बनाने के लिए क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय कोई एप्रोच कर रहा है भारत सरकार से ?

KUMARI SELJA: This is being taken up by the Department of Personnel. I cannot answer this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 225.

*225[The questioner (Shri Gopalsinh G. Solonki) was absent. For answer vide Col. infra].

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Madam, what is this "Tribunal"?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: What is this "Tribunal", Madam? For "Tribal", they have prited "Tribunal".

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is a problem. Yesterday this matter was raised. An erratum is being issued by our Secretariat. This printing is becoming

a problem and the Secretariat and we are taking up the matter. That is the reason why we have to make the correction and supply an erratum. Now, Question No. 226. Shri Mentay Padmanabham.

Tribal development projects in Andhra Pradesh

*226. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that funds for the Tribal Development Projects are not spent properly due to lack of proper administrative machinery in tribal blocks;

(b) whether Government are also aware that many ITDA blocks in Andhra Pradesh are functioning without a regular Block Development Officer or Mandal Development Officer;

(c) if so, whether any report has been sought from the Government of Andhra Pradesh on the reasons why ITDA blocks with tribal population do not have regular Mandal Development Officers; and

(d) if not, what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure proper and clean administration in ITDA blocks in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government is aware that some ITDA Blocks in Andhra Pradesh are functioning without regular BDOs or Mandal Development Officers.

(c) There are now 492 vacancies of Mandal Decelopment Officers in the State as no recruitment has taken place recently.

(d) Other officers of ITDA Blocks have been kept in additional charge of the Mandals, where there are no regular Mandal Development Officers.

Steps are being taken to post regular Mandal Development Officers.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Madam, the answer given by the honourable Minister is self-contradictory in the first place. The main thrust of the Question is that the funds allocated for tribal development are not being spent properly and they are not reaching the people for whom they are intended. For that the Minister's reply is "No." That means that, in his opinion, the funds allocated for tribal development are not spent in the most fruitful way. Then, in answer to parts (b) and (c) of my question, he says that there are now 492 vacancies of Mandal Development Officers in Andhra Pradesh. This is the situation in all the States of the country because the SC/ST Welfare Committee had gone into this matteh and stated that in almost all the States the tribal welfare development project's were not being implemented and they were not properly being manned by trained people. This is the situation all over the country, now. I would particularly like to know from the honourable Minister as to how many Tribal Development Block are there in Andhra Pradesh and how many vacancies are being filled. I would like to know out of the 492 vaconcies that he has mentioned how many are being filled and how many are not being filled.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: With regard to the ITDA blocks and with regard to tribal development in the country, our Government is doing the best to the satisfaction of the tribal population of the country. With regard to Andhra Pradesh, there are 52 Mandals out of which 24 mandals dot not have regular MDO's Steps are being taken to post regular MDOs. But there is no lacuna in the implementation of the programmes. There are other officers Special Officers, who are there, known as Project Officers, and who are looking after the projects. The Project Officers are looking after the implementiation of the programmes very effectively. There is no lacuna in that.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You put your second supplementary.